Ypsilanti

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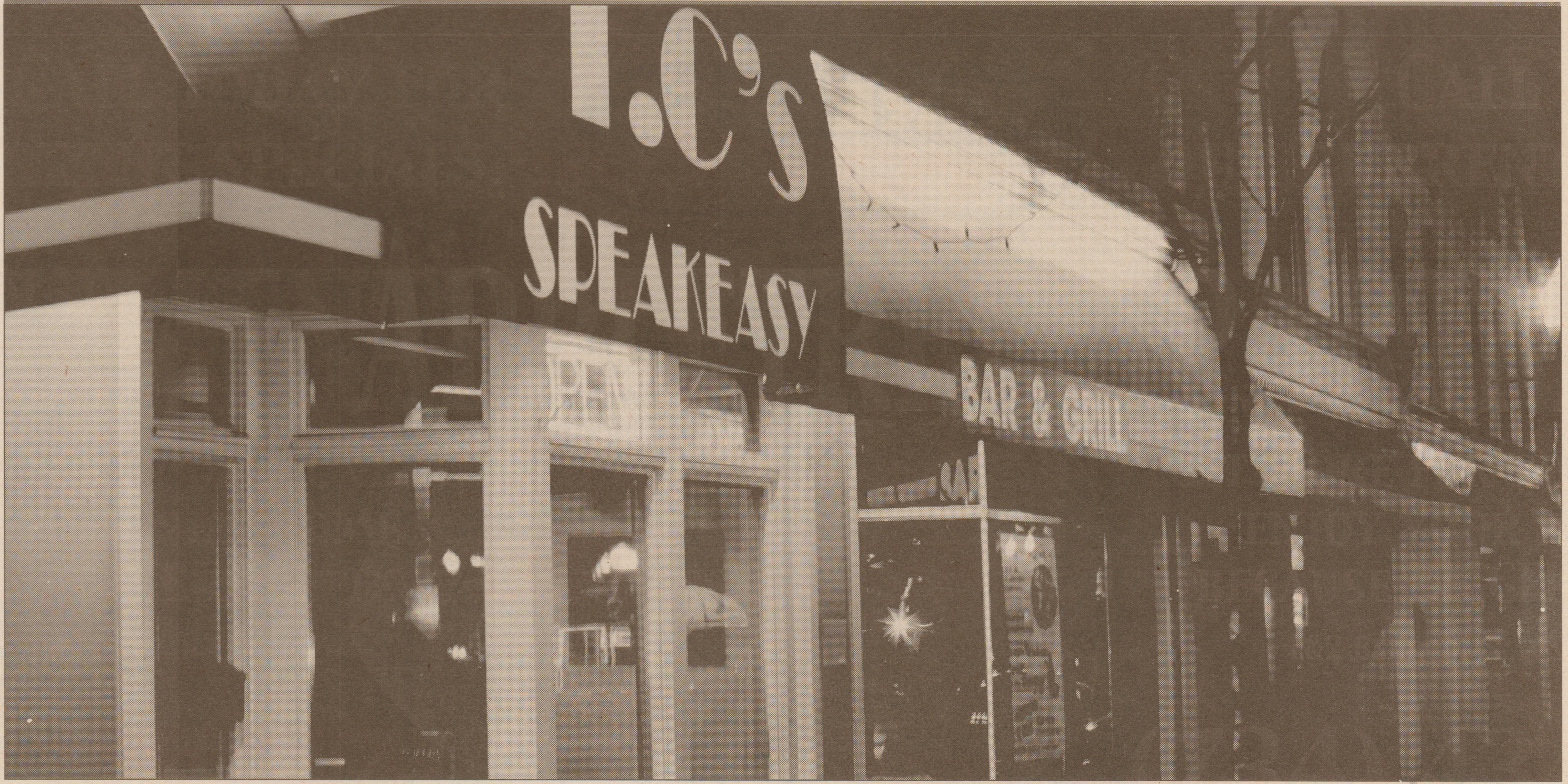


Photos by Hannah Esper

T.C.'s best Karaoke in town

HANNAH ESPER
Staff Writer

TC's Speakeasy is the bar to go for Karaoke in Ypsilanti. "Stoo" the Karaoke man hosts this crazy sing-a-long time every Tuesday night from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. The drink special of the night to accompany the tunes is $3 Bud and Bud Light 22 oz bottles.

If Karaoke isn't your thing, different kinds of live bands are featured five other nights of the week. Sunday night TC's hosts Reggae Night starting at 9 p.m. with $2 Red Stripe and $2 flavored rum drinks. Every week One Root Sound with Selector Joshua spins Reggae past to present.

Monday night is Open Mic Blues Jam hosted by Jim Latini of the Crowbar Hotel, and all artists are welcome. Drink specials are $2 Labatt drafts and $2.50 Labatt bottles.

Wednesday night there is no entertainment but it is Cheap-ass Drink Night at TC's and all-you-can-eat tacos from 6-9 p.m. for $4.95. All domestic beer is $1.25 and they also have 50 cent Pucker shots. Free pool is offered on Wednesday nights as well.

Thursday night is Open Mic night hosted by Brant and John of the house band, Rootstand. Artists of all genres are welcome. Two dollar Bell's is the drink special of this night.

Every weekend TC's has a live band starting at 10 p.m., blues and jazz on Fridays and rock on Saturdays. There is a $3 cover to see the bands but Friday night features $2 Long Islands and Saturday night has $2 well drinks. Local bands you can see play regularly on these nights include Valerie Barrymore and the Foundations of Funk, Deep Space Six, and Soot. Also, Rob Moses performs classical piano music every Friday evening from 6-9 p.m.

Besides the regular weekly specials, TC's offers additional specials for holidays and benefits. They raise money for various causes and occasionally have guest bartenders.

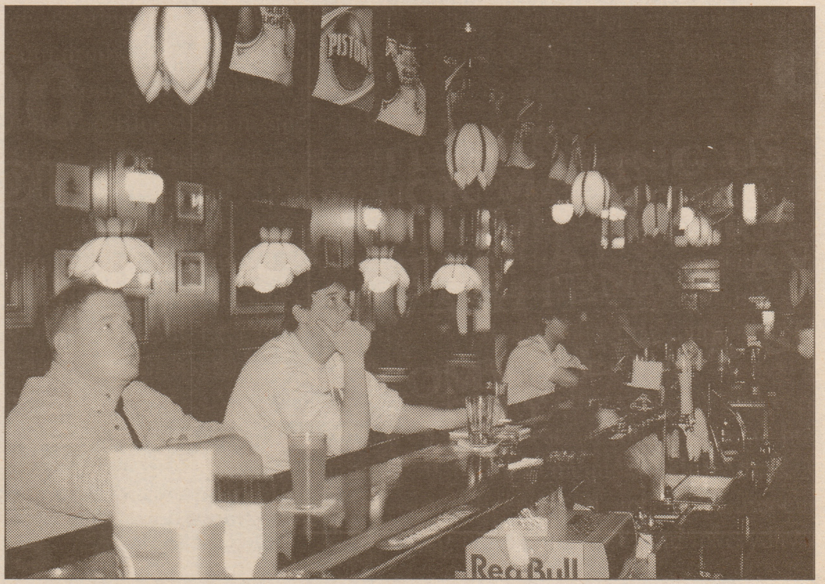
Bar manager, Lisa Benya, says she came to TC's over 6 years ago because it had real live music and it was something different from the club scene.

"We get lots of regulars here, young and old," Benya said. "And after a bit it's just like everyone is your family."

Benya said that renovation of TC's will be happening within the next year to replace the chairs, booths and carpeting. Their latest accomplishment however, is the new menu, which features 25 new appetizers. All appetizers are currently 20 percent off 6-8 p.m. everyday. They include calamari, coconut shrimp, egg rolls, beer battered zucchini and pickles and many more. The kitchen is open every night until midnight.

The bar also has a dance floor, televisions, arcade games, and 2 pool tables that are free everyday until 9 p.m.

TC's Speakeasy is located at 207 W. Michigan Ave in Downtown Ypsilanti. For more information, call them at (734) 483-4470.



Ypsilanti's Elite

EMU did voting, The Echo did the counting; now it's time to find out who's who at EMU

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BDSB
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Theos

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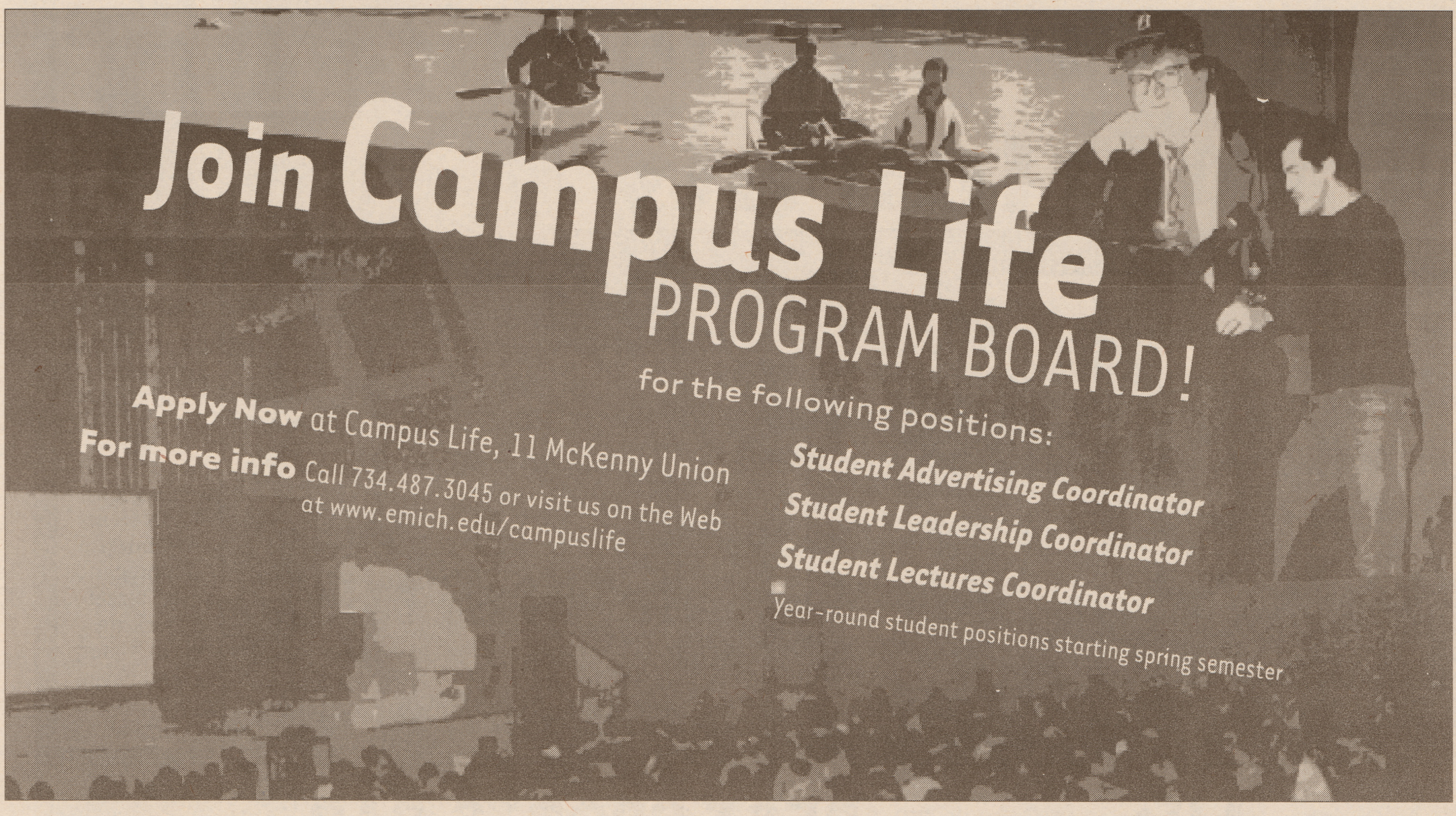

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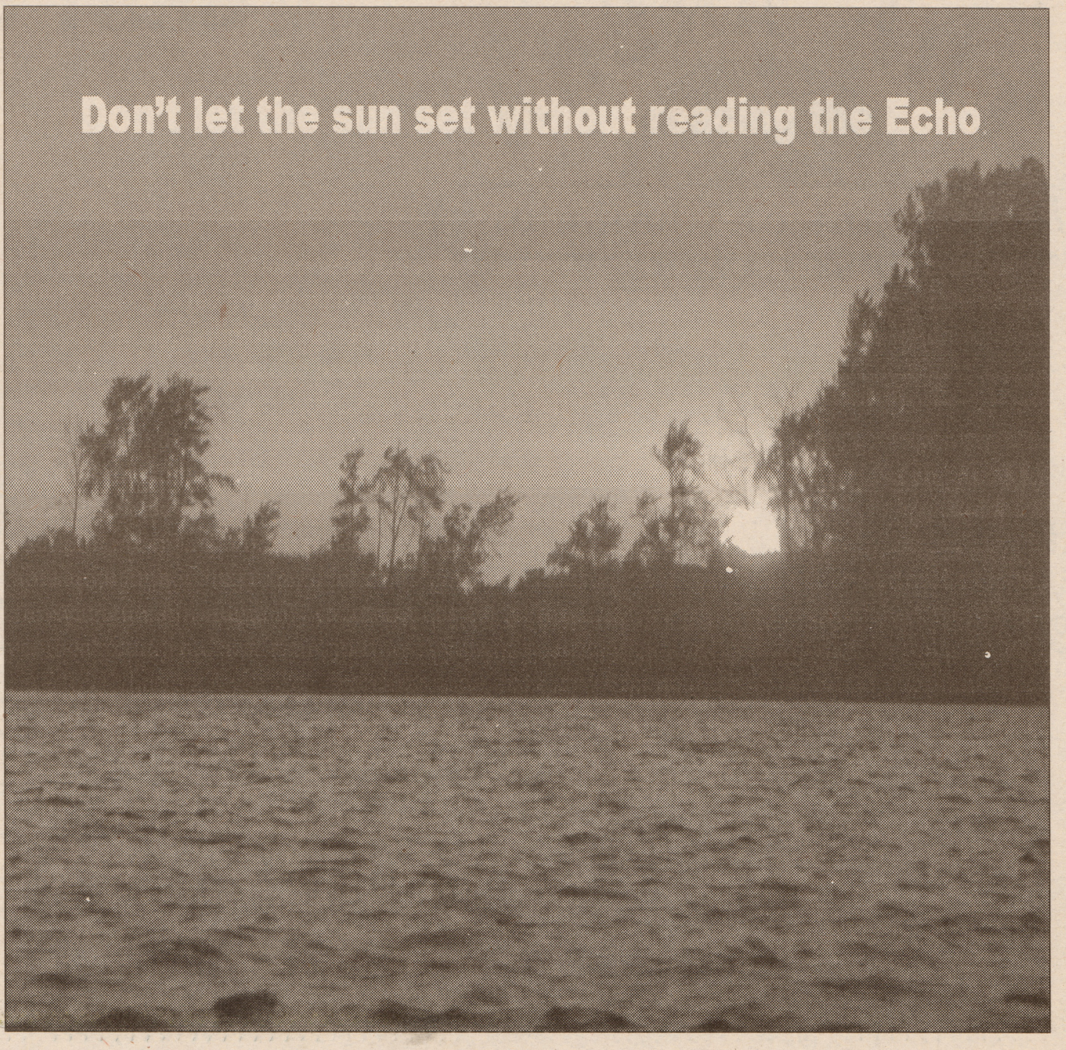

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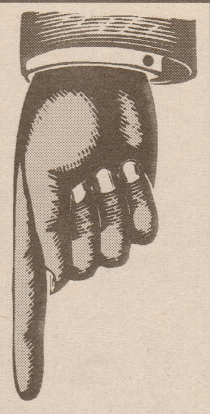

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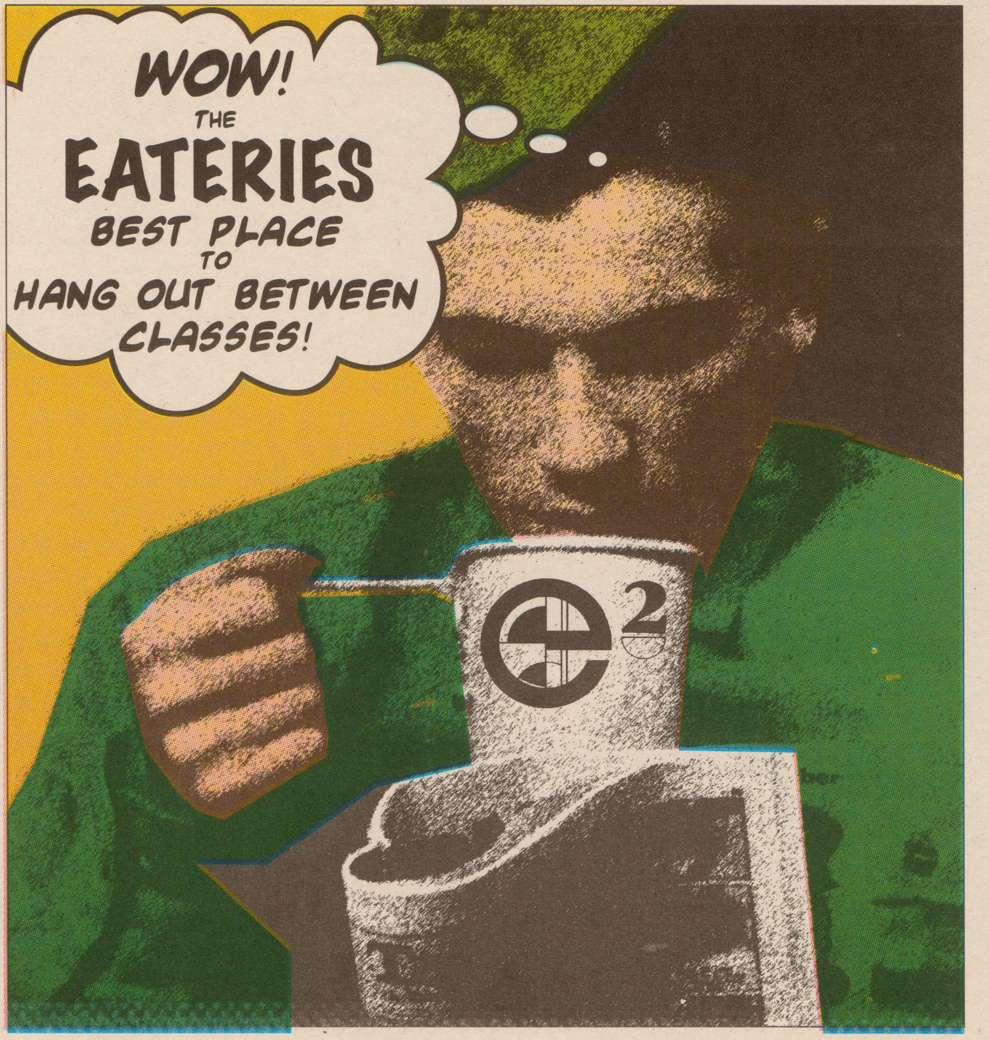

Best on campus

Best Excuse for late assignment:

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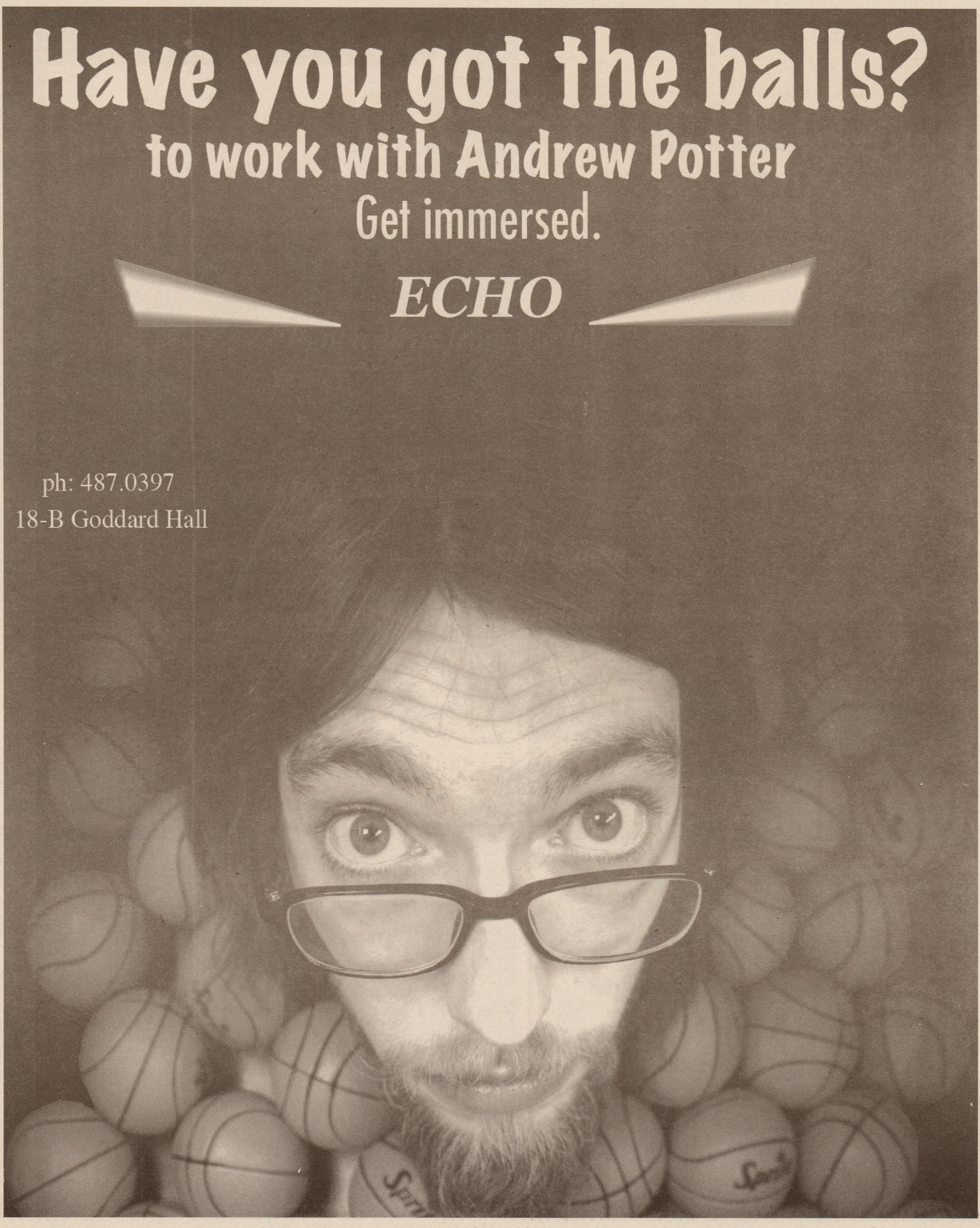
Best Professor: *Martin Shichtman*

Best Class:Psych of Sex: *Pamela Jacobs*

Luke says:

"Don't forget to vote next year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Tios

Best Mexican Food in Ypsi

photos by Andrew Potter

"Mikey Likes it!" Well, he likes books, anyway

BY EMMA SCHULTZ
Staff Writer

Ever since Mike's Bookstore opened its doors in January 2001, it has stood apart from local competitors. Not only do the employees actually know their stuff at Mike's, (like the location of that obscure English book no one's heard of) but they also strive to make students feel as comfortable as possible with their up-to-the-minute service.

From the moment you stand in line, workers are there to offer free refreshments and entertainment. And, unlike other bookstores where the line can usually drag on for what seems like hours, the pace is quite steady. Owner Mike Root even checks on the line from time-to-time and pitches in to make sure things keep moving, whether it be by finding books for a student or ringing up a customer on the register.

It's one of the few businesses you can go to these days where the owner actually chooses to be hands-on instead of hiding in the office all day. And it's this kind of business mentality that has kept Mike's Bookstore running for so long with such a dedicated customer base.

Students at EMU like Mamtha Yerram, a graduate student, and Andy Northrop, a junior, are just one of the many that shop at Mike's regularly for their books every semester.

"I found [textbooks] more cheaper at Mike's than at Ned's, and I feel the service is faster at Mike's," Yerram said.

Northrop added, "They have donuts, coffee and that guy walking around making jokes. It's really rad, man."

Compared to other bookstores in the area, there are not many that offer this kind of service, especially when it all comes right out of the store's own pocket.

"People wait in line, so we think they should be entertained," Root explained. "We like to keep [book rush] festive, so it's kind of like the college experience. So we like to try to keep it as positive as we can."

With approximately 50 people working at Mike's during the book-rush, including the 10-12 people he employs year-round, the store is well equipped each day to handle the crowds during the busy season.

And although most assume that after book rush the work is done, that's not the case at Mike's. According to Root the store is "always preparing for upcoming terms and always trying to improve on [the] previous term."

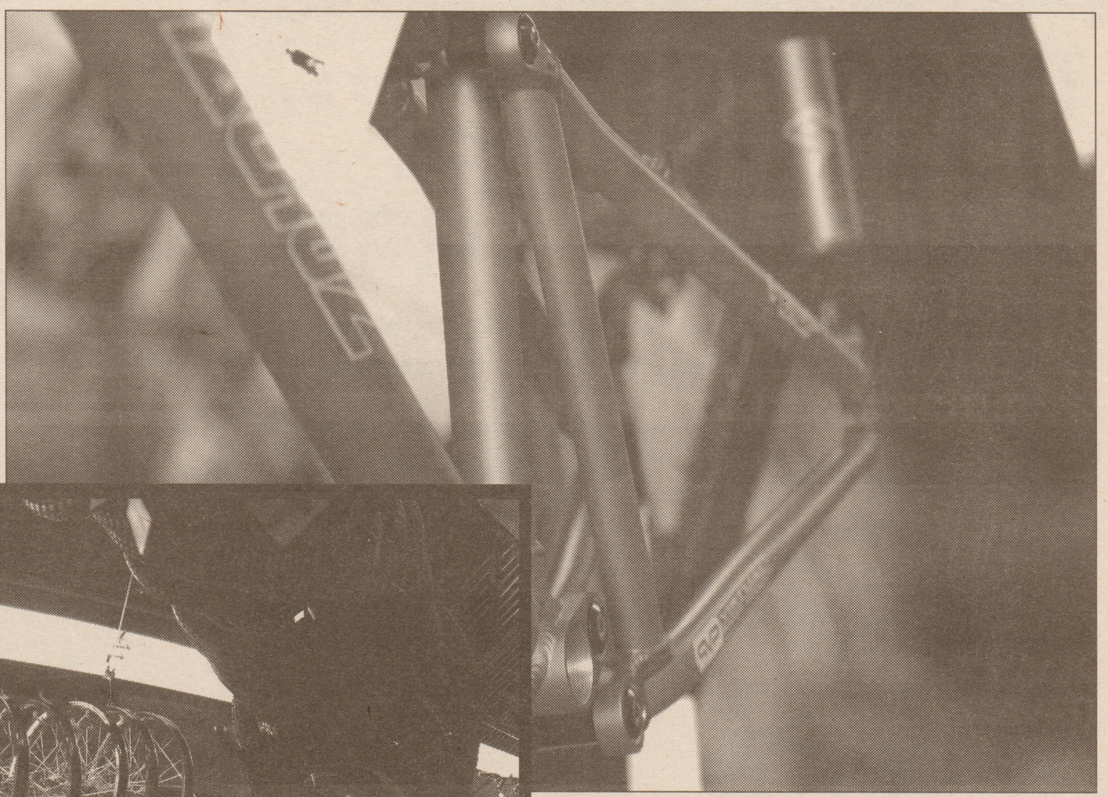
In fact, much of the time in between semesters is spent processing special orders, because, as Root says, that's what the customer comes for at Mike's.

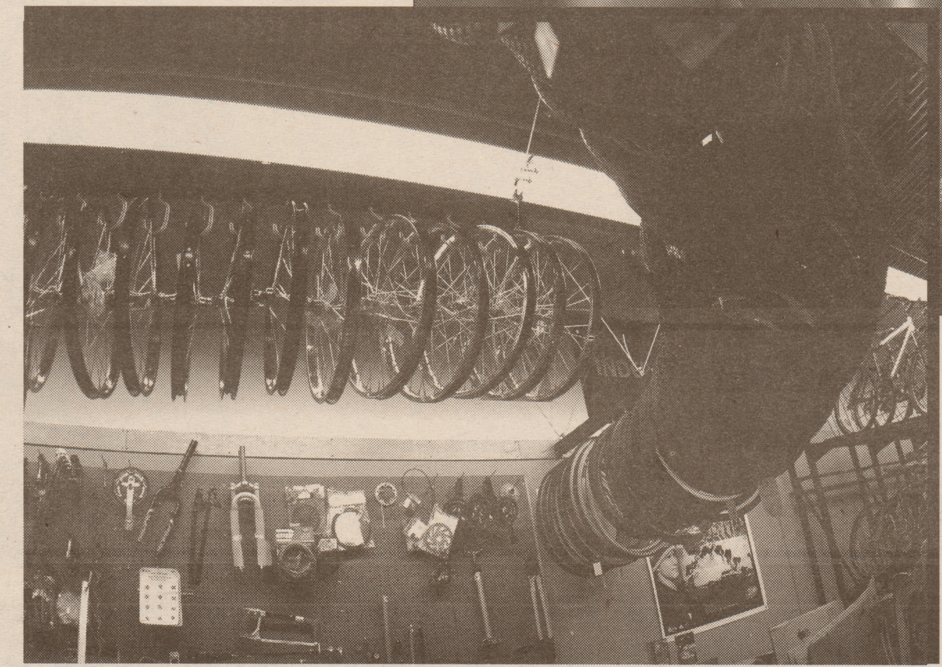
Root admits, though, that running his bookstore has never been easy. The first year Mike's opened was tough, he said. In order to get book orders from publishers then, Root said that they had to do a lot of begging and used reference letters from the EMU community to get the business going. But, according to Root, by the second year Mike's had started to build a really good market share and business had gotten better.

Root said what makes Mike's different from all the other bookstores at Eastern is the service and experience students get from the staff. And at Mike's it is the student who comes first.

" You guys pay a lot of money on tuition. You deserve a great service," Root said.

This Tree Fort was made for everyone





Adam Sparkes/Eastern Echo

Scott Mulder and Craig Anteau opened Tree Fort Bike Shop in August of last year. Since, they have become involved in bringing more recreation to Ypsi. Their store sell bikes for all tastes.

Pub 13, Best Damn Sports Bar, Club Devine, an unstoppable Ypsi trio

David Curtis has helped to build a one stop party block

By Aysha Hussain
Staff Writer

The last couple of years have been good to local Ypsilanti partyhoppers. Regulars may even consider owner and entrepreneur David Curtis to be their nightlife saving grace. As a prolific business person, Curtis has built a career working in entertainment spanning 20 years of hard work and dedication. Originally from Southfield, Curtis says Eastern Michigan was one reason the city of Ypsilanti sparked his interest to create a more modern atmosphere for all age groups.

"Within the first four months, Pub 13 won Best Dueling Piano Bar," Curtis said. "It's been very exciting for all of us. We work at it so hard and we're having such a great time."

Since 1979, Curtis has manned several bars and clubs including Pub 13, The Best Damn Sports Bar and Club Divine, all of which inhabit Ypsilanti's famous Entertainment District located along N. Washington Street.

Although Pub 13, located on 13 N. Washington St, is less than 2-years-old, it has become well-respected amongst goers. A unique feature to Pub 13 is what's upstairs. The Best Damn Sports Bar, a venue unto itself, sits on the upper level of the pub. BDSB features pool tables, dart games, golden tee and television monitors so anyone can watch the latest big game.

The Eastern Echo recently named Pub 13 Best Friday night, Best Saturday night, Best Place to Get Hit On and Best Place to Hear Live Music. Real Detroit Weekly and the Metro Times awarded Pub 13 with Best Friday Night, Best Saturday Night and Best Music of 2004. BDSB also won an award for Best Sports Bar. With 70 employees under one roof, Curtis attributes his success to his staff and employees.

"Pub 13 and the BDSB are set in a very historic area," Curtis said. "The building has a lot of character. It's a very comfortable and warm place. People seemed to have acknowledged some of the awards that we've won."

Club Divine, better known as the Wildest Party on the Westside, located on 23 N. Washington St. opened in December 2001. The nightclub was additionally honored with Best Place to Dance of 2004. Curtis says the 2-year-old nightclub has been just as booming.

"Club Divine is a great party place, a great hit," Curtis said. "It's been very successful."

Overall Curtis says he is ecstatic about the public's response to all three of the hot spots.

"My philosophy for all three venues: we want you, as an individual, to come in and have a good time. We try to cater to everyone."

Pub 13 is open Mondays through Saturdays from 11:00 am-6:00 pm. Club Divine is open Wednesday through Saturdays, each night featuring a different theme. Wednesday: College Night, Thursday: Ladies Night w/ 89X, Friday: Sensation with DJ Joey A and Saturday: Wildest Party on the Westside. Doors open at 9:00 pm.

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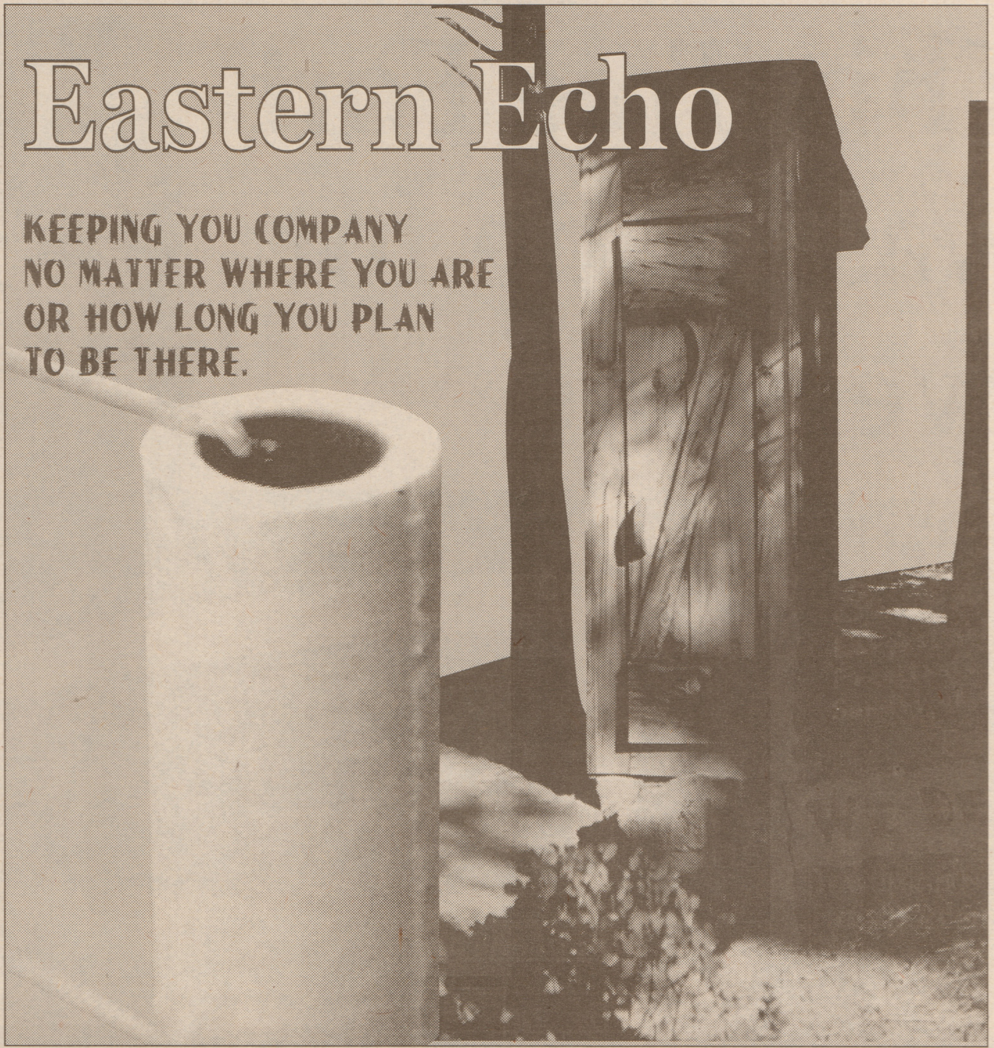

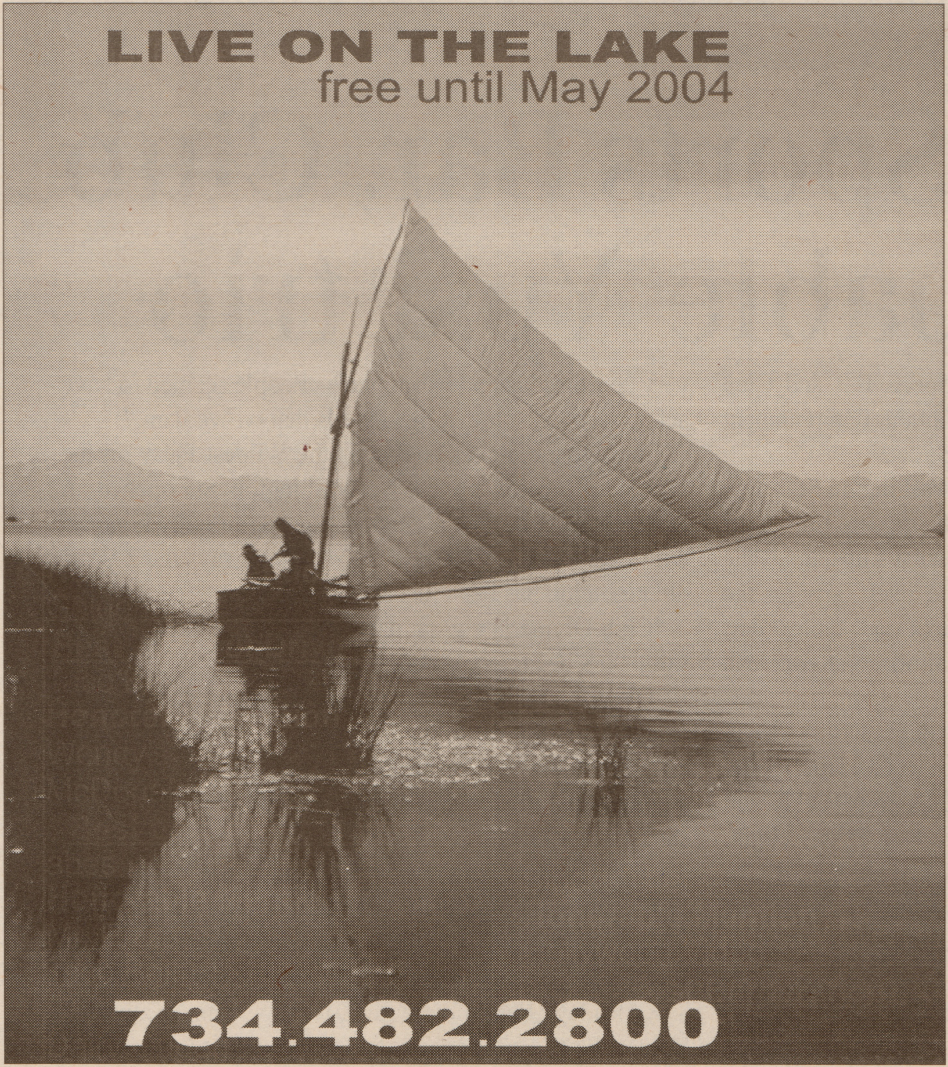

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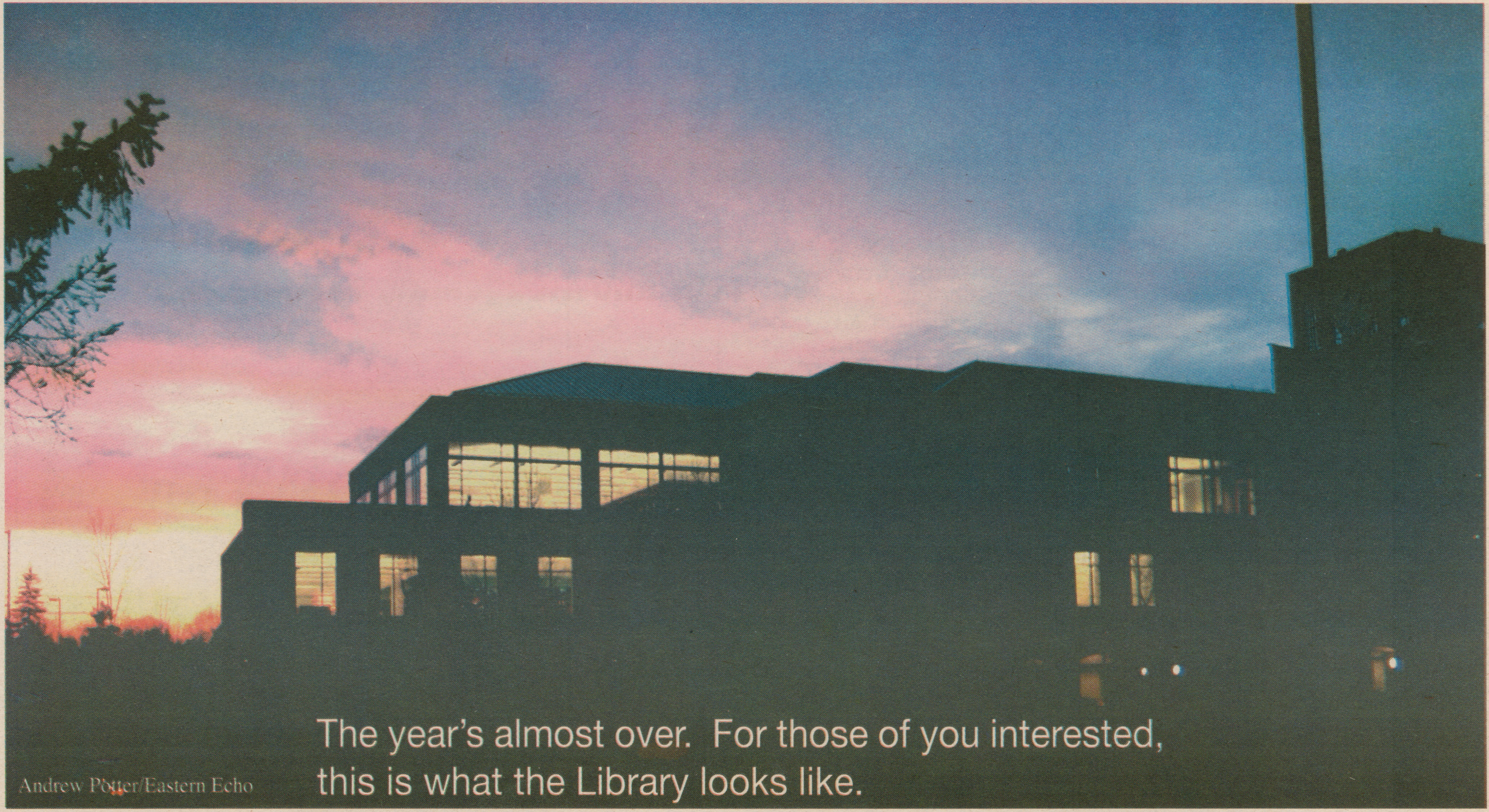

Andrew Potter/Eastern Echo

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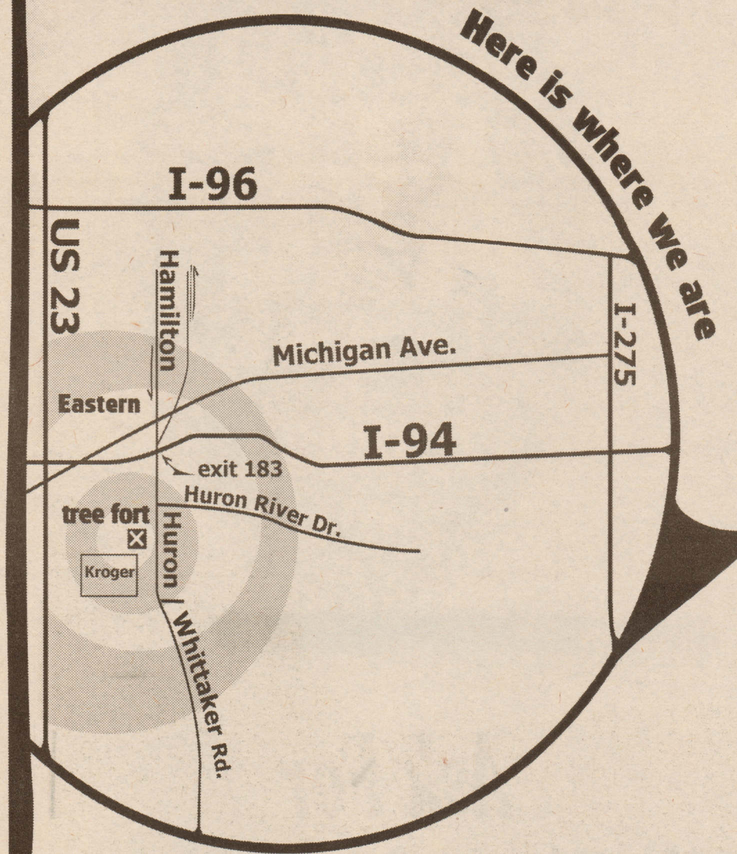
Eastern Echo Reader's Poll 2004!



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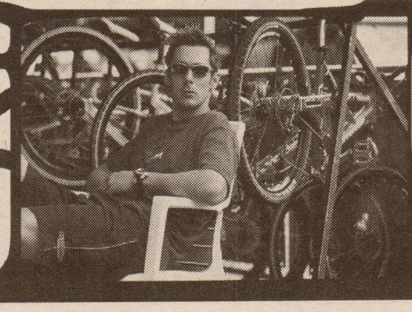

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